

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION**

CHARLES JERRY NORRIS

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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A-13-CV-243 LY

(A-06-CR-031(1) LY)

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

TO: THE HONORABLE LEE YEAKEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

The Magistrate Court submits this Report and Recommendation to the United States District Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b) and Rule 1 of Appendix C of the Local Court Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges, as amended.

Before the Court is Charles Jerry Norris's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody, filed on March 22, 2013 (Dkt. # 76).

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

On June 27, 2006, Charles Jerry Norris pled guilty, pursuant to a plea agreement, to Counts Two, Four and Five of an indictment alleging violations of 18 U.S.C. §371(conspiracy involving 18 U.S.C. § 1791) (Count Two), and 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) &841(b)(1)(C) (distribution of methamphetamine) (Counts Four and Five). On September 26, 2006, the District Court sentenced Movant to a 151-month term of imprisonment, followed by a four-year term of supervised release, and a \$300 mandatory assessment fee. See Judgment and Commitment Order (Dkt. # 56). Norris did not file a direct appeal of his conviction and sentence.

Almost seven years after his sentencing, Norris has now filed the instant Motion to Vacate his sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. In the Motion, Norris alleges (1) ineffective assistance of counsel, (2) the police induced him to commit the offenses, (3) prosecutorial misconduct, and (4) that his guilty plea was not knowing and voluntary.

II. ANALYSIS

The Court is unable to address the merits of Norris' Motion because it is time-barred under the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"). Section 105 of the AEDPA amended 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to include a one-year limitations period for filing a § 2255 motion in federal court. Section 2255, amended by § 105(2) of the AEDPA, provides as follows:

A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to a motion under this section. The limitation period shall run from the latest of—

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making a motion by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Norris has not alleged or produced any evidence or argument that the Government has impeded him from filing a § 2255 Motion prior to the end of the limitations period. Norris had sufficient knowledge of the facts at a time that he could have timely filed his Petition. He makes no

allegation that his claims concern a constitutional right recently recognized by the Supreme Court (or any other court) that would have a retroactive effect on his claims. Thus, subsections (2)-(4) of the one-year limitation rule do not apply in the case at bar. Therefore, Norris's ability to file a § 2255 motion is governed by subsection (1) of the one year limitation period and the period begins running on the date on which his judgment of conviction became final. "When a defendant does not file a direct appeal, his conviction becomes final on the day when the time for filing a direct appeal expires." *United States v. Scruggs*, 691 F.3d 660, 669 (5th Cir. 2012), *cert. denied*, 133 S.Ct. 1282 (2013).

Because Norris did not file a direct appeal of his conviction, his conviction became final on September 30, 2006, the day when the time for filing a direct appeal expired in his case.¹ Therefore, under the AEDPA, Norris was required to file a § 2255 motion on or before September 30, 2007. Norris, however, did not file the instant § 2255 motion until years later— on March 22, 2013. Accordingly, Norris's § 2255 Motion is time-barred under the AEDPA and must be dismissed. See *United States v. Plascencia*, 537 F.3d 385, 390 (5th Cir. 2008) (holding that § 2255 motion was untimely where petitioner did not file his motion until after the time for filing a timely notice of appeal had expired).

¹At the time of Norris's conviction, Rule 4(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure required a defendant to file a notice of appeal within 10 days after the entry of the judgment. Rule 4(b) now gives a defendant 14 days after the entry of the judgment to file a notice of appeal. See FED. R. APP. P. 4 advisory committee's note.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The Magistrate Court RECOMMENDS that the District Court **DISMISS** Charles Jerry Norris's Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Illegal Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 as time-barred under the AEDPA.

IV. WARNING

The parties may file objections to this Report and Recommendation. A party filing objections must specifically identify those findings or recommendations to which objections are being made. The District Court need not consider frivolous, conclusive, or general objections. *Battles v. United States Parole Comm'n*, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987). A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations within fourteen days after the party is served with a copy of the Report shall bar that party from de novo review by the district court of the proposed findings and recommendations in the Report and, except upon grounds of plain error, shall bar the party from appellate review of unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428–29 (5th Cir. 1996).

To the extent that a party has not been served by the Clerk with this Report & Recommendation electronically pursuant to the CM/ECF procedures of this District, the Clerk is directed to mail such party a copy of this Report and Recommendation by certified mail, return receipt requested.

V. CERTIFICATE OF APPEAL

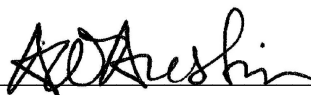
An appeal may not be taken to the court of appeals from a final order in a habeas corpus proceeding “unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability.” 28 U.S.C. §

2253(c)(1)(A). Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, effective December 1, 2009, the district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant.

A certificate of appealability (“COA”) may issue only if a petitioner has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). The Supreme Court fully explained the requirement associated with a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right” in *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). In cases where a district court rejected a petitioner’s constitutional claims on the merits, “the petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.” *Id.* “When a district court denies a habeas petition on procedural grounds without reaching the petitioner’s underlying constitutional claim, a COA should issue when the petitioner shows, at least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Id.*

In this case, reasonable jurists could not debate the denial of Movant’s § 2255 petition on substantive or procedural grounds, nor find that the issues presented are adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed. *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 327(2003) (citing *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484). Accordingly, it is recommended that a certificate of appealability not be issued.

SIGNED this 1st day of May, 2013.



ANDREW W. AUSTIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE